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FOLLOWING ANKARA 1429 DTD FEB 18 SENT ACTION STATE  
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QUOTE:

UNCLAS ANKARA 01429

INFO ADDRESSEES PLS PASS CODEL TOWER

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (TOWER, JOHN), TU

SUBJECT: SENATOR TOWER'S VISIT TO ANKARA

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF SENATOR TOWER'S PRESS  
CONFERENCE HELD ON FEBRUARY 16, 1982. BEGIN TEXT:

CIO, MR. DENNIS: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE PRESS AND  
GUESTS: WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY THIS  
AFTERNOON FOR THIS PRESS CONFERENCE. WE HAVE PREPARED  
A BIOGRAPHY IN TURKISH OF THE SENATOR, AND WE ALSO HAVE  
A COPY IN TURKISH OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE U.S.  
SENATE CONDEMNING THE DEATH OF YOUR BELOVED DIPLOMAT,  
KEMAL ARIKAN. SINCE THE TIME IS SO SHORT, WE WILL NOT  
HAVE TIME FOR TRANSLATION. THE SENATOR'S ANSWERS WILL  
BE AVAILABLE LATER FROM OUR OFFICE IN TURKISH IF YOU NEED  
THEM. AT THIS TIME, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT TO YOU  
SENATOR JOHN TOWER OF THE UNITED STATE SENATE.

SENATOR TOWER: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. LADIES AND GENTLE-  
MEN--I HAVE NO PREPARED REMARKS. I'LL MAKE A VERY BRIEF  
STATEMENT AND THEN WE'LL GIVE OVER THE BALANCE OF OUR  
TIME TO ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS.

FIRST, MAY I SAY THAT I'M DELIGHTED TO BE BACK IN TURKEY  
TO ENJOY THE SPLENDID HOSPITALITY THAT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO  
ME TODAY. I HAVE HAD VERY USEFUL DISCUSSIONS THIS  
MORNING WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTER, MR. BAYULKEN, WITH THE  
FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. TURKMEN, WITH PRIME MINISTER ULUSU,  
AND I SPENT A VERY PRODUCTIVE SESSION, I BELIEVE, WITH  
GENERAL EVERN. THIS AFTERNOON, GEN. OZTORUN AND HIS  
STAFF BRIEFED ME ON SOME MILITARY MATTERS, PARTICULARLY  
THE NATO COMMITMENT AND THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE TURKISH  
ARMED SERVICES. THE UNITED STATES REGARDS TURKEY AS AN  
EXTREMELY VALUABLE FRIEND AND ALLY AND ALSO AS AN  
ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT MEMBER OF NATO. THE GEOGRAPHICAL  
AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF TURKEY CANNOT BE OVER-  
EMPHASIZED. IT IS, I BELIEVE, INCUMBENT ON US TO PROVIDE  
AS MUCH ASSISTANCE AS POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THE MODERNIZA-

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TION OF THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES AND TO ASSIST TURKEY IN IMPROVING ITS ECONOMIC SITUATION. I BELIEVE THAT VERY REMARKABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD SINCE THE LAST TIME I VISITED HERE. THE INCREASE IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, INCREASE IN EXPORTS, THE APPARENT PROGRESS THAT IS BEING MADE ON ALL FRONTS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD ARE, I THINK, COMMENDABLE. I REGRET TO SAY, OF COURSE, THAT WE ARE STILL CONFRONTED WITH PROBLEMS OF OBSOLESCENCE OF MUCH OF THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN THE INVENTORY OF THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES. AND I EXPECT TO ADDRESS MYSELF TO THIS PROBLEM IN PARTICULAR WHEN I RETURN TO WASHINGTON. I BELIEVE THAT WE'LL HAVE ADEQUATE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR WHAT IS BEING RECOMMENDED IN ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. THIS IS ACTUALLY TWICE WHAT WAS GIVEN TWO YEARS AGO. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT IS MORE THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS, SOME 465 MILLION DOLLARS. WE BELIEVE IT IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE GREAT REQUIREMENTS AND THAT WHAT WE ARE OFFERING IN THE WAY OF ASSISTANCE NOW IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN TRYING TO FULFILL THESE REQUIREMENTS OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. AT THIS POINT I AM PREPARED TO SUBMIT TO YOUR QUESTIONS. MAY I SAY THAT I DO NOT ORDINARILY COMMENT ON THE DOMESTIC, INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION. I DON'T THINK THAT IT IS PROPER FOR AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL TO DO THAT. I AM PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO RESPOND TO YOUR QUESTIONS AS FRANKLY AND CANDIDLY AS I CAN

Q: LAST YEAR, WHEN YOU WERE HERE, YOU SAID THAT THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES WAS THE BEST OF ALL TIMES. AFTER ONE YEAR, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE IT?

A: I WOULD SAY EVEN BETTER THAN AT THE BEST OF ALL TIMES AT THIS POINT. IF I SAID THE BEST OF ALL TIMES LAST YEAR, I THINK THAT THE RELATIONSHIP CONTINUES TO IMPROVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE.

Q: MR. SENATOR, YOU MENTIONED A PERIOD OF YEARS FOR AID TO BE GIVEN TO TURKEY. WOULD YOU SAY HOW MANY YEARS?

A: WELL, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY. WE UNDERSTAND WHAT THE REQUIREMENTS ARE. TO BEGIN WITH, IT IS NOT JUST A MATTER OF MONEY BUT THE ABILITY TO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME. WE'RE ENGAGED IN A MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OF OUR ARMED SERVICES IN THE UNITED STATES AND WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FIVE-YEAR PLAN. NOW TO ACHIEVE THAT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, WHAT WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED WITHIN THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD WILL BE ACHIEVED OVER A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS. I WOULD NOT PRESCRIBE EXACTLY HOW MUCH TIME IT IS GOING TO TAKE TO HEAL ALL DEFICIENCIES. OF COURSE, IT IS ALMOST AXIOMATIC THAT DEFICIENCIES DEVELOP FROM TIME TO TIME AND YOU NEVER HAVE THINGS QUITE TO THE STATE THAT YOU LIKE TO HAVE THEM. BUT WE THINK THAT SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT CAN BE MADE OVER THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS IN THE TURKISH MATERIAL SITUATION.

Q: FOR FY 83, WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE?

A: WELL, IT IS A TOTAL PACKAGE OF 818 MILLION DOLLARS-- SOME 465 MILLION DOLLARS IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND I BELIEVE THAT THAT RECOMMENDATION WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE CONGRESS.

Q: HOW MUCH WILL BE DIRECT AID? YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DIRECT AID SIDE OF IT IN FY 82.

A: IT IS 300 MILLION IN DIRECT AID.

Q: SIR, FOREIGN MINISTER TURKMEN SAID TO THE PRESS THIS MORNING THAT THE MILITARY AID FIGURE WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR

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TURKEY. HE WAS NOT JUST MAKING A STATEMENT, HE WAS ANSWERING QUESTIONS. WHAT WOULD BE YOUR RESPONSE TO THAT?

A: WELL, I RECOGNIZE THAT THERE MAY BE SOME DISAPPOINTMENT ABOUT THE LEVEL. BUT WHAT IS TO BE UNDERSTOOD IS THAT WE ARE UNDER BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS IN THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE FACING ENORMOUS BUDGETARY DEFICITS. AND UNLESS WE CONTROL OUR OWN DEFICITS, THAT WOULD BE VERY HARMFUL TO OUR ECONOMY. IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE STRENGTH OF THE WEST, TO THE STRENGTH OF NATO, THAT THE ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES BE STRONG. AND THEREFORE WE HAVE TO CONSIDER WHAT THE ECONOMIC IMPACT IS ON OUR COUNTRY. WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER THE POLITICAL ASPECTS BECAUSE WE ARE REDUCING A NUMBER OF DOMESTIC SPENDING PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES. MANY VERY POPULAR DOMESTIC PROGRAMS ARE BEING REDUCED SUBSTANTIALLY. BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE DOUBLING OUR AID TO TURKEY. SO WE DO PLACE A HIGH PRIORITY ON THAT, BUT IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT WE CANNOT ALWAYS DO EVERYTHING THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DO, PERHAPS EVEN ALL THAT EVALUATED REQUIREMENTS SEEM TO INDICATE.

Q: FOR FISCAL YEAR 1983, YOUR TOTAL FIGURE IS 465 MILLION DOLLARS (INAUDIBLE)

A: MILITARY AID THREE YEARS AGO WAS 200 MILLION DOLLARS. THEN IT WENT TO 250 MILLION AND NOW IT IS GOING TO BE 465 MILLION. THE MILITARY IS MY PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY, THE MILITARY SIDE OF IT. AND I RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS WELL.

Q: HAVE YOU DISCUSSED THE POLISH QUESTION AND THE AFGHANISTAN QUESTION WITH THE HEAD OF STATE?

A: WE TALKED ON A WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS, THE VARIOUS TROUBLES THAT AFFECT THE WORLD THESE DAYS, AND SOME OF THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL ADVENTURES THAT HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN BY THE SOVIET UNION. WE DID NOT TALK, IN GREAT DEPTH, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE POLISH QUESTION.

Q: WHEN YOU THINK OF INCREASING TURKISH MILITARY AID THIS YEAR, NEXT YEAR, POSSIBLY FOR SEVERAL YEARS, YOU ALSO MENTIONED THE POLITICAL ASPECTS. DO YOU THINK THIS MILITARY AID SHOULD BE GIVEN WITH NO QUESTIONS ASKED, PURELY ON THE BASIS OF NATO? OR DO YOU THINK THAT DOMESTIC TURKISH CONSIDERATIONS ARE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, NAMELY THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE PRESS? THAT'S HUMAN RIGHTS...

A: WELL, VERY OFTEN ALLEGATIONS ARE MADE IN THE PRESS THAT DON'T HAVE ABSOLUTE FOUNDATION IN FACT BUT SOMETIMES ARE BASED ON HEARSAY, SECOND-HAND INFORMATION. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE PRESS IS ALWAYS INACCURATE. I WOULD NEVER SAY THAT TO THE PRESS. BUT I THINK THAT WE HAVE TO GO ON THE BASIS OF OVERALL PERFORMANCE, NOT JUST TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC INCIDENTS OR ALLEGATIONS OF INCIDENTS. AND IN FACT, WE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND THE PROCESS OF TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN-CONTROLLED, DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT. THE TIMETABLE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED; WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS PERFECTLY REASONABLE, AND FOR MY PART, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD BRING UNDULY, UNSEEMLY PRESSURE TO BEAR ON TURKEY TO TRY TO AFFECT THIS TRANSITION.

Q: YOU ATTENDED THE WEHRKUNDE MEETING IN MUNICH. WHAT WAS THE ATMOSPHERE IN EUROPE AS FAR AS THE TURKISH POSITION IS CONCERNED?

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A: THAT IS OBVIOUSLY A CONCERN THAT WAS EXPRESSED, PARTICULARLY BY SOME OF THE MORE LEFT-WING ELEMENTS OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES OF WESTERN EUROPE ABOUT THE SITUATION IN REGARD TO MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN TURKEY. THESE ARE LARGELY IDEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS. I BELIEVE THAT AMONG THE REASONABLE LEADERSHIP OF WESTERN EUROPE THERE IS UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY FOR WHAT IS GOING ON IN TURKEY TODAY. AND ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES BASED ON SOME POPULAR NOTIONS ABOUT TURKEY THAT HAVE AN IMPACT ON WESTERN EUROPEAN RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, I BELIEVE THE FACT THAT THE TIMETABLE HAS NOW BEEN ANNOUNCED AND THE GOVERNMENT IS PROCEEDING WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED AND IN A POSITIVE WAY TO MEET THAT TIMETABLE WILL AMELIORATE SUBSTANTIALLY WESTERN EUROPEAN RELATIONS WITH TURKEY.

Q: HAVE YOU DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF GREECE IN NATO WITH GEN. EVREN, AND WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS ABOUT MEETING THE SITUATION IN NATO?

A: I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT WHAT I DISCUSSED WITH GEN. EVREN. LET ME SIMPLY MAKE AN OBSERVATION. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ALLIANCE AND IN THE INTEREST OF OUR EFFORTS MUTUALLY TO PRESERVE THE PEACE, THAT THESE OUTSTANDING MATTERS SHOULD BE RESOLVED. I THINK IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT ON ANY OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY BECAUSE IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THESE DISPUTES MUST BE WORKED OUT BY THE TURKS AND THE GREEKS THEMSELVES.

Q: WHAT IS THE AMERICAN CONSENSUS CONCERNING THE STRATEGIC SITUATION OF TURKEY?

A: WELL, I THINK TURKEY HAS A VERY KEY ROLE TO PLAY BECAUSE TURKEY OCCUPIES A VERY UNIQUE POSITION. IT IS A PART OF EUROPE, A PART OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION AND HAS CLOSE TIES WITH THE WEST. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS AN ISLAMIC COUNTRY, THE ONLY ONE THAT IS A MEMBER OF NATO. AND IT HAS A PARTICULAR HISTORIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STATES OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND I THINK A PARTICULAR AFFINITY FOR THE STATES OF THE MIDDLE EAST THAT PUT TURKEY IN A VERY UNIQUE AND, I THINK, USEFUL POSITION.

Q: ALSO LAST WEEK IN THE UNITED NATIONS THERE WAS A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL AND THERE WAS A REFERENCE TO THE AMERICAN POSITION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND TURKEY ABSTAINED....

A: YES, THAT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION, I UNDERSTAND, FOR TURKEY TO TAKE BUT A VERY COURAGEOUS AND STATESMANSHIP-LIKE POSITION AND WE BELIEVE THAT THEIR PERFORMANCE IN THAT INSTANCE WAS CORRECT.

Q: ON THE TURKISH SIDE, MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS, DID THEY EXPRESS INTEREST IN BUYING MODERN AMERICAN FIGHTER PLANES?

A: WE DID, OF COURSE, TALK ABOUT VARIOUS ITEMS OF MODERN AMERICAN EQUIPMENT. AND CERTAINLY HIGH ON THE AGENDA ARE MODERN TACTICAL FIGHTERS TO REPLACE THE AGING FIGHTER AIRCRAFT THAT ARE IN THE TURKISH INVENTORY. AND THAT IS ONE OF MANY ASPECTS OF MODERNIZATION THAT WE DISCUSSED.

Q. WHAT PARTICULAR TYPE OF AIRCRAFT ARE THEY INTERESTED IN?

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A: WELL, I THINK YOU WILL BE BETTER ADVISED TO TALK TO  
THE TURKISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE MOST  
INTERESTED IN. THAT IS NOT FOR ME TO SAY.

SENATOR TOWER: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU VERY  
MUCH.

THE PRESS: THANK YOU. END TEXT.  
STRAUSZ-HPE UNQUOTE HAIG

END OF MESSAGE

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